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THE HILLTOP

The Daily Student Voice of Howard University

VOLUME 91, NO. 76

WWW.THEHILLTOPONLINE.COM

Wednesday, February 6, 2008

Wednesday
Notebook

BREAKING NEWS

A 9-MONTH-OLD BABY GIRL SURVIVED AFTER BEING THROWN FROM THE FOURTH STORY OF A BLAZING BUILDING IN GERMANY, ACCORDING TO CNN.COM.

CAMPUS

SENIOR BIOLOGY MAJOR DANIEL GILMER IS THE FIRST GILLIAM FELLOW IN HOWARD HISTORY. THE FELLOWSHIP OFFERS MORE THAN \$200K TOWARD GRADUATE STUDIES.

LIFE & STYLE

FORMER 'TOP MODEL' CONTESTANT AND HU STUDENT AMBREAL SITS DOWN WITH LIFE & STYLE EDITOR DANIELLE KWATENG TO DISCUSS THE INS AND OUTS OF MODELING.

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PAGE 4

Microfinancing Education Helps Women, Poor Learn to Save

BY DENISE HORN
Contributing Writer

During a visit to Ghana in 2003, Dana Whitaker, a teacher from Berkeley, Calif., met a woman. Equipped with her camera in hand, Whitaker took a picture of this woman as she sat on the ground. With her feet in the gutter and her child swaddled across her back was Stella Sabang, and in her lap was \$340.

Stella's now graces the cover of Whitaker's book, "Transforming Lives \$40 at a Time, Women + Microfinance: Upending the Status Quo."

The book depicts the stories of Sabang and other women and men across five continents who come from some of the poorest

countries but have benefited from microfinancing.

When Sabang enrolled in the program, she and her family were living off of her daily profit from selling cups of dried corn. After educational classes, Sabang was given a loan of \$40. Now, not only has Sabang improved her family and community, but her cups of dried corn are now sacks of dried corn.

Microcredit enabled Sabang to launch her business, but Sabang and other enrollees in microfinancing institutions are able to create small businesses with training and small low-interest loans.

"The loans are only given after the individual has training," Whitaker said.

Microcredit funding was originated more than 30 years ago when 2006 Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus created the Grameen Bank, which loaned money to the poorest of the poor.

Whitaker said, "Microfinancing is very beneficial. It is a combination of financial and non-financial education. Through microcredit, are loans that start at 40 USD and upward."

She continued, "Microcredit. Microfinancing. If you notice, hyphens are not used in the words. There is no hyphen between the words because hyphens are for

new words that haven't reached mainstream. Microfinancing used to be unknown, but it is now worldwide."

Today, the World Bank estimates that there are more than 7,000 microfinance institutions worldwide. Microcredit and microfinancing have not only improved communities and increased the rates of people in schools, but has also literally put roofs over the heads of families.

"I went to Ethiopia and witnessed how most roofs of homes are made of straw — except those of women who are in microfinancing programs," Whitaker said.

Integral to microfinancing is teaching people how to save. During a post-tsunami visit to Indonesia, Whitaker witnessed the added devastation that victims who did not have saving accounts faced.

"People were left with nothing," she said. "People did not have saved money. They put their money in cans on rafters, under mattresses and in cans in the dirt so when the tsunami hit, they lost everything — family, homes and money."

Whitaker, a married mother of a 10-year-old, never imagined that her 16-year-old daughter would take her around the globe. Last June, she retired as a social



Dana Whitaker, author of "Transforming Lives \$40 at a Time, Women + Microfinance: Upending the Status Quo," will hold a book reading and discussion Thursday in the Howard University Bookstore.

science and English teacher to become a professional and personal coach for women.

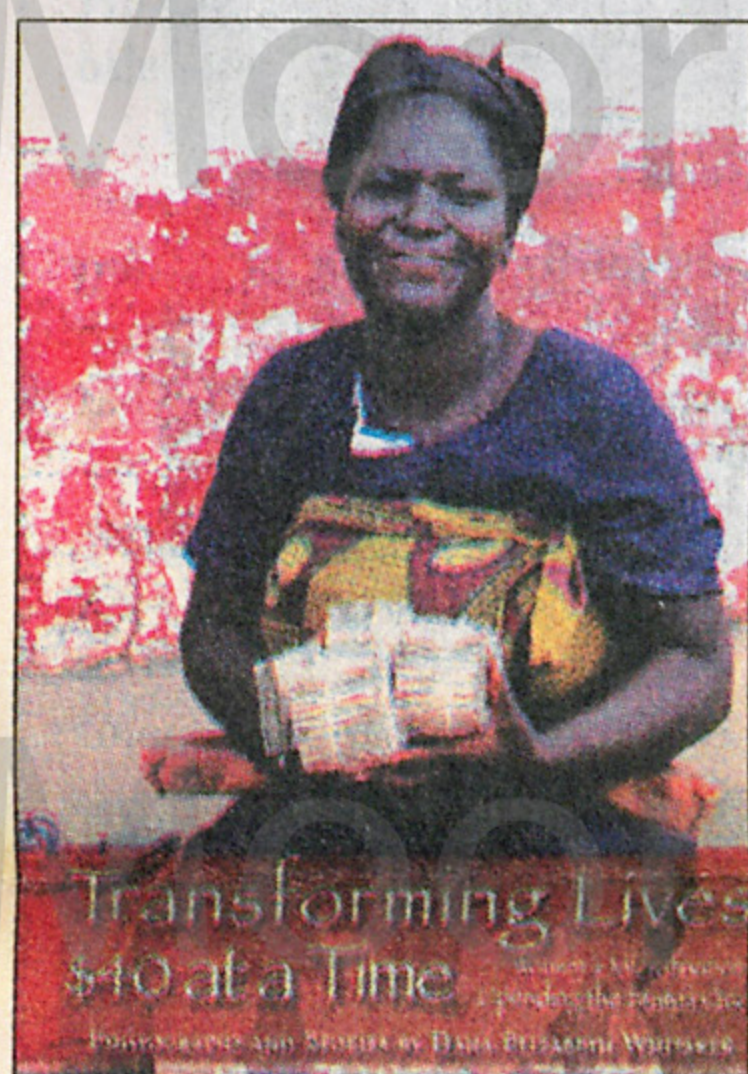
Now, she is the owner of Opening Eyes, LLC, which provides effective communication and business leadership. The majority of experiences in her book come from women.

"One billion people in the

world are illiterate and two-thirds of those people are women," Whitaker said, which is why microfinancing institutions like the Women's Opportunity Network are specifically geared toward women. "Studies showed that when women are educated, more children have access to education and healthier food. So, through simple

pictures and words, I teach others the benefit of microfinancing."

Whitaker will host a book reading and discussion at the Howard University Bookstore Thursday at 5 p.m. Thirty percent of proceeds from her visit will be donated to the Women's Opportunity Fund, a microfinancing institution for poor women.

Fortune Names Best
Companies to Work ForBY DENISE HORN
Contributing Writer

When junior marketing major Sydney Hargrove graduates next May, she will have six months to find a job before she must begin payments on the \$81,000 her parents took out to fund her education.

The accumulation of this debt is forcing college students like Hargrove to start the search for a job a year early. Hargrove is excited to enter the work force based on *Fortune Magazine's* most recent report, which names the "Best 100 Places to Work For."

Topping the list for the second year in a row is Internet giant Google. According to the list, Google's job growth is at 60 percent, which is down seven points from last year. Despite its slowed growth, Google continues its appeal to potential employees like Hargrove because of its benefits, which include stock options.

"There are gourmet restaurants; you can bring your pets to daycare and go to grocery stores," Hargrove said. "Google offers more benefits so you can have a balance, which is very important to me."

The top five rounded out with the largest online mortgage lender Quicken Loans, Wegman's Food Markets, Edward Jones and Genentech. Quicken Loans' job growth jumped a whopping 49 percent, from last year's 19 percent to 68 percent.

Fortune Magazine delivers the list through a partnership with the Great Place to Work Institute, a global research firm. The survey was given to 100,000 employees and consisted of questions ranging from company style to management. Any company that



Fortune Magazine published its annual list of the "Best 100 Places to Work For." At the top of the list was Internet search engine Google.

is at least seven years old with an employee base of at least 1,000 U.S. employees is eligible to participate.

The list also reports on the benefits of working at these companies. Eighty-five companies offer employees eldercare benefits, and 72 offer domestic partner assistance. In contrast to previous years, 84 companies offer employees the opportunity to telecommute. Twenty-one of the listed companies, which include Stew Leonard's, Whole Foods and Microsoft, pay 100 percent of their employees' insurance premiums.

Director of the School of Business career development center Harold Gray thinks the list is promising for minorities, but also believes that in order to work at these companies, students should be more equipped. Gray said black students have more difficulty succeeding in corporate America because they do not prepare themselves.

"Learn the organization's manual, go to all company

events...because you are looked at differently just because you have a different hue," he said.

He also said students should understand why little things make a huge difference.

While Gray believes race will be a factor in how students adapt to the corporate world, he also believes that in the end, the most important color is green.

Junior political science major Frank Tucker agreed with Gray. Tucker worked this summer as a sales and trading intern for the list's ninth-ranked Goldman Sachs.

"On Wall Street, there are not many black males, so I did stand out," Tucker said. "But the bottom line is moving up depends on how much you make for the company."

This year's list also includes which companies rank the best for minorities. The top five companies are Baptist Health of South Florida, Four Seasons hotels, Methodist Hospital System, Marriott International and Station Casinos, respectively.



Allerthea I. Carter - Photo Editor

More than 500 students took time out to cast a vote in the university's mock primary election Tuesday.

Obama Wins Mock Election

BY VANESSA ROZIER
Nation & World Editor

If it were up to Howard University students, Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) would be the next president of the United States. Tuesday, 511 undergraduate students, graduate students and staff cast their votes in the Howard University mock Super Tuesday election.

Not surprisingly, Obama came in first with 448 votes, or 88 percent of the vote. Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.) came in second with 39 votes, or 8 percent, and Sen. John McCain (R-Ariz.) came in third with 11 votes, or 2 percent of the vote.

Howard University College Democrats President Debauch Ward believes Obama is the right choice for college students.

"I generally thought that the Howard University support would be with Barack Obama because I feel that he represents a lot of the ideals that we embrace here," he said. "We live by Leadership for America and the global community, and Sen. Obama exemplifies that motto."

Comparing this primary season to that of 2004, Ward said students this time around have more passion for America's political future.

"I was here in 2004 when the 'Vote or Die' movement was really big," he said. "People weren't sitting around talking about the difference

between Howard Dean and John Kerry. People are actually sitting down and having that conversation this time around."

Although Clinton and Obama are the only Democrats in the race, there are students who support the underdogs. Chigozie Onyema, a senior African studies major, supports Rep. Dennis Kucinich (D-Ohio).

"Kucinich was my candidate and still is my candidate," Onyema said. "But if I had to pick, I would certainly pick Obama before Clinton. Her stand on the war was a bit more conservative. I'm a bit more optimistic about what Obama represents because Clinton is a more polarized figure." After the campus totals were tallied, Howard political enthusiasts walked across the street to Duffy's Irish Pub and Restaurant to watch as the delegate count accumulated.

CNN was on every television, tuning everyone's attention into the primary race.

"It's really exciting, full of aggravation at some times but excitement at other times," said senior international business major Paris Walker, the vice president of the College Democrats, while at Duffy's.

The students, Democratic and Republican alike, raised their voices and glasses to a night full of anticipation as Americans come closer to knowing who will be the party front runners in the race for president of the United States.

See your classmates' reactions to the Super Tuesday results @ our Web site:
The Hilltop Online
www.thehilltoponline.com



Some members of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) will meet with Howard students today to address the issue of racial profiling.

Black Caucus to Discuss Racial Profiling

BY ANNIE WHITE
Editorial Assistant

Sixteen members from the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) will serve as panelists in a discussion on racial profiling and the 2008 primary elections today from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in Room 2154 in the Rayburn House Office Building.

"It is a very important topic that affects all black people," said Bernard Moore, a political science professor and one of the coordinators of the event. "One of the speakers, Congressman Davis, was a victim of racial profiling."

Moore was referring to an incident that transpired in November 2007 when Congressman Danny Davis (D-Ill.) was pulled over while driving in his own district by two white Chicago officers. The officers said Davis swerved over the center line, and he denies doing so.

Davis said he was really pulled over because he was driving with three other black men after midnight. Since then, the congressman has introduced an anti-racial profiling bill to Capitol Hill. He has also appeared in traffic court to challenge the \$75 ticket he received.

Davis once told the Washington Post that racial profiling is one of the most malicious problems in America, and the only "crime" he committed was driving while black.

"Racial profiling is illegal, but it is so hard to prove," said Caryn Freeman, an intern for the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation and another coordinator of tonight's event.

Freeman feels passionately about this issue and believes there are too many incidents in which a black man has been targeted, even harmed in some cases, solely for being black.

"Not all the cases hit national or even local media outlets," she said. "Therefore, politicians on Capitol Hill are always listening [to] their constituents."

She continued, "So, it is really important for us students to show up and voice our opinion so they can take our voices back to the floor and lobby for legislation on the floor of Congress."

Freeman, who has worked closely with Moore for four months on logistics, making sure everything runs according to plan, recognized that "An Evening with the Congressional Black Caucus" conflicts with Angela Davis' speech on Howard's campus that will start around 7 p.m., before the CBC event concludes. However, she believes the CBC event will be a success.

The panel discussion will be followed by a question and answer portion that will be covered by CSPAN.

Some of the Congressional guests include Maxine Waters (D-Calif.), Carolyn Cheeks Kilpatrick (D-Mich.), Chaka Fattah (D-Pa.), John Conyers (D-Mich.), Keith Ellison (D-Fla.), Hank Johnson (D-Ga.), Bobby Scott (D-Va.) and G.K. Butterfield (D-N.C.).

Shuttles have been chartered and will transport interested parties to the venue. The buses will be leaving from Crampton Auditorium at 4:30 p.m.

The department of political science is holding the panel in honor of Black History Month.

Biology Major Receives Fellowship

BY TRAVER RIGGINS
Campus Editor

Daniel Gilmer has made a Howard University first. The senior biology major was named 2008 Gilliam Fellow for Advanced Studies by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI).

Gilmer was selected for the fellowship after participating in HHMI's Exceptional Research Opportunities Program (EXROP) at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) over the summer.

The fellowship grants Gilmer \$44,000 per year for five years of graduate studies at the institution of his choice.

The Gilliam fellowship was established three years ago to increase diversity among science professors, according to a news release.

"I would like to earn a Ph.D. in biochemistry and study the structures of biomolecules," Gilmer said, "and from these studies participate in drug synthesis and discovery."

The research Gilmer conducted over the summer was a step in that direction. He studied nickel's affect on protein in cells — research that could one day lead to new ways of battling bacteria infections.

Gilmer developed his interest in science while in high school in a suburb outside Orlando, Fla.

"Coming into college, I

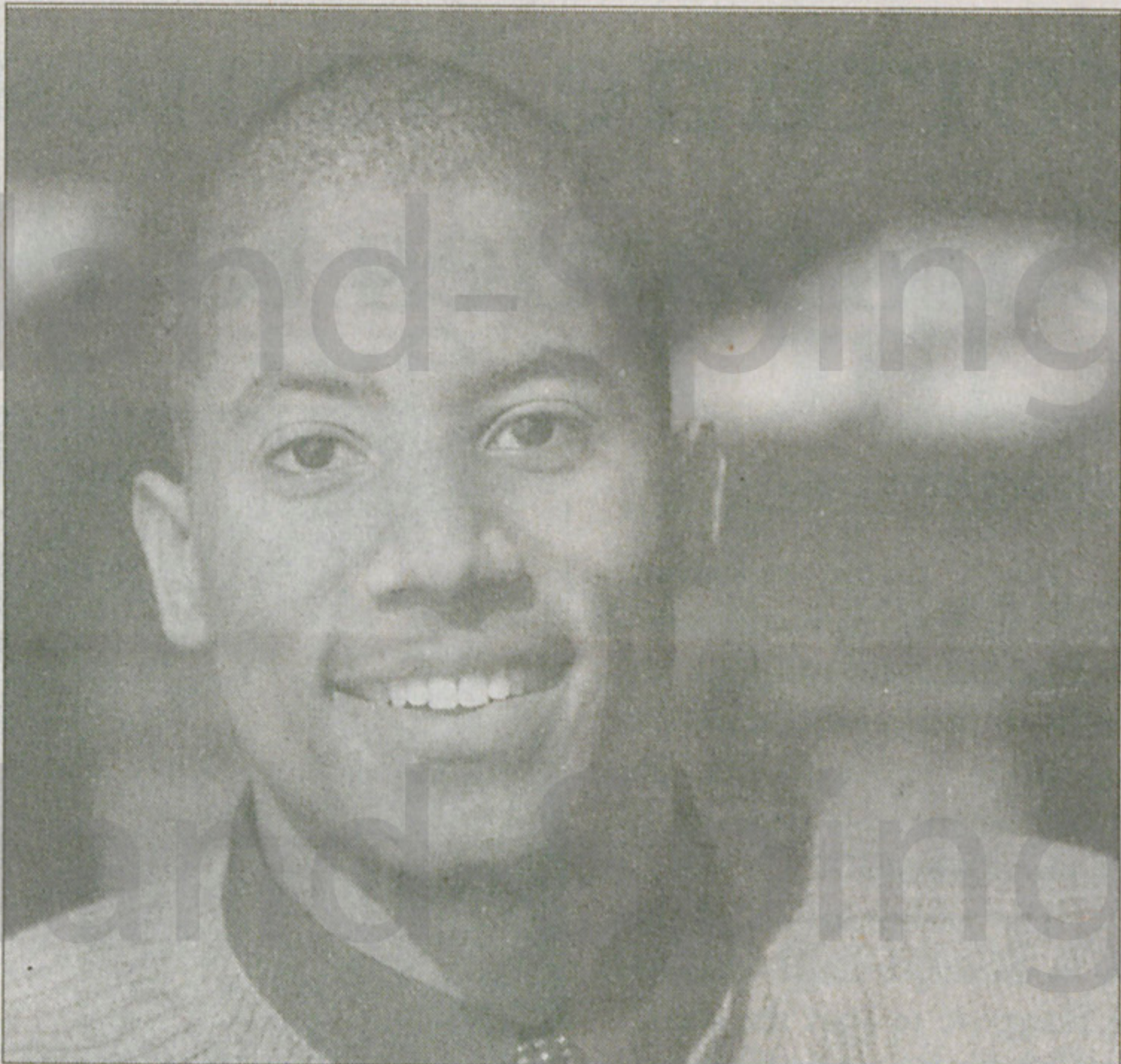


Photo courtesy of Tom Kochel

Daniel Gilmer is among five students to be named 2008 Gilliam Fellows. Gilmer, a senior, will receive \$44,000 per year toward graduate school.

wanted to stay close to science, but also help people, so I was inspired toward medicine," Gilmer said.

In addition to working for Habitat for Humanity and aiding in food and clothing drives for his church, Gilmer has also visited Zimbabwe, Kenya and South Africa for missionary work.

Gilmer decided to lean toward research.

"A doctor can help one person at a time," he said in a press release, "but a researcher can help 10,000 people with a single discovery."

At Howard, Gilmer re-

searches with Winston Anderson, Ph.D., a professor of biology. Anderson receives funding from HHMI and was given the opportunity to recommend Gilmer for EXROP, which ultimately landed him the fellowship.

"He has the determination to confront difficult academic problems," said Anderson in an HHMI release. "He could not be a better student, or a better person."

In the future, Gilmer sees himself as a faculty member at a leading institution.

"I want to be at a school that would be motivating students who wouldn't have oppor-

tunities otherwise," he said. He would also like to find balance with a school with adequate resources for research.

The fellowship will allow Gilmer to study at an institution of his choice. His top three picks right now are Duke University, Johns Hopkins University or the University of Chicago.

Not only does the fellowship allow him to study, but it also allows him to do so without financial ties to the institution at which he chooses to study.

"I would not be able to have the independence that I will have in grad school if I were not coming in with my own funding," Gilmer said.

Gilmer was one of five students chosen to receive the fellowship this year.

"We have chosen five remarkable students as Gilliam fellows this year; we are lucky to have them in the HHMI family," said Peter J. Bruns, vice president for grants and special programs at HHMI, in their release.

"These recipients have already accomplished much; the five-year fellowships should help them build on the talent and scientific curiosity that they have already demonstrated," Bruns added.

The fellowship is named for the late James H. Gilliam Jr. who, according to HHMI, was a charter trustee of HHMI and spent his life, "fostering excellence and diversity in education and science."

Life @ The Mecca

Dennis Johnson

BY TENI-OLA OGUNJOBI
Contributing Writer

After nearly a four-year journey through the Mecca, senior marketing major Dennis "DJ" Johnson is approaching the finish line of his college tenure. Having grasped the full concept of the "Howard Experience," he looks back on times of the past that have gotten him to this point.

Originally from Monrovia, Liberia, Johnson moved to Willingboro, N.J. when he was five. He was able to build a foundation growing up in Willingboro as an only child and by receiving firm guidance from his father and grandfather. This foundation would prepare Johnson for his later years in college and his professional career.

Johnson entered Howard in the fall of 2004. His decision to attend the university was based on Howard's prestige, strong legacy and reputation of producing successful people.

"Howard was known for housing blacks who had a strong identity of self and full understanding of the blacks before them," Johnson said.

In his days as a freshman, he quickly became known as a "cool guy" to associates and a loyal person to close friends.

"DJ is one of the most sincere people anyone could meet, and he genuinely cares about people," senior biology major Meghan Elam said.

As a sophomore, Johnson became a member of the Alpha Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity Inc.

"[It was] one of the greatest decisions God has let me make," Johnson said. "It surrounds me with people that are really about bettering themselves and the community."

Fond memories at Howard would not be complete without highlighting moments that have made his experience so worthwhile.

"The ease of meeting people that you will click with for the rest of your life and the time when my fraternity

won 'Fraternity of the Year' for the second time in a row are two memories that will stay with me," Johnson said.

Along with the fond memories come the tragic ones. Having made it to his senior year, the death of Mikel Husband, the graduate advisor for his fraternity and the director of Howard communications, hindered Johnson's performance.

"His death had a major effect on me and it being so short notice stalled me for a while," Johnson said.

Taking things one day at a time has allowed Johnson to move forward. In addition to his position as the social chair for his fraternity, Johnson's other affiliations include Motley Management, where he serves as president. He is also one of the founders of Crown Legend, a party promotion and music company.

He is currently a co-manager to author William Kellibrew IV and manages an upcoming artist, senior audio production major Derick "Deontre Blayz" Bowers.

"DJ is one of the hardest working people I ever met," Bowers said. He makes those connections that an artist like myself who hasn't gotten my foot in the door needs. He is not only my frat brother and line brother, but also someone that I trust."

His hard work has paid off and Johnson's gratification is near. He has put himself in a position to succeed in what ever he may pursue.

"I've never seen anyone pursue what they want with such fervor and ambition as DJ," junior biology major Carrington Howard said.

Johnson said, "Anything I love, I put my all into it."

He will soon receive his bachelor's degree with a concentration in marketing and, to Johnson, that will get him that much closer to securing a spot in the Howard legacy.

"I accomplished a lot during my time here," he said. "I have grown a lot and made a bunch of mistakes that have helped me grow."



Photo Courtesy of Dennis Johnson

Senior Dennis "DJ" Johnson is hoping that his time spent at The Mecca will secure him a spot in the university's prestigious legacy.

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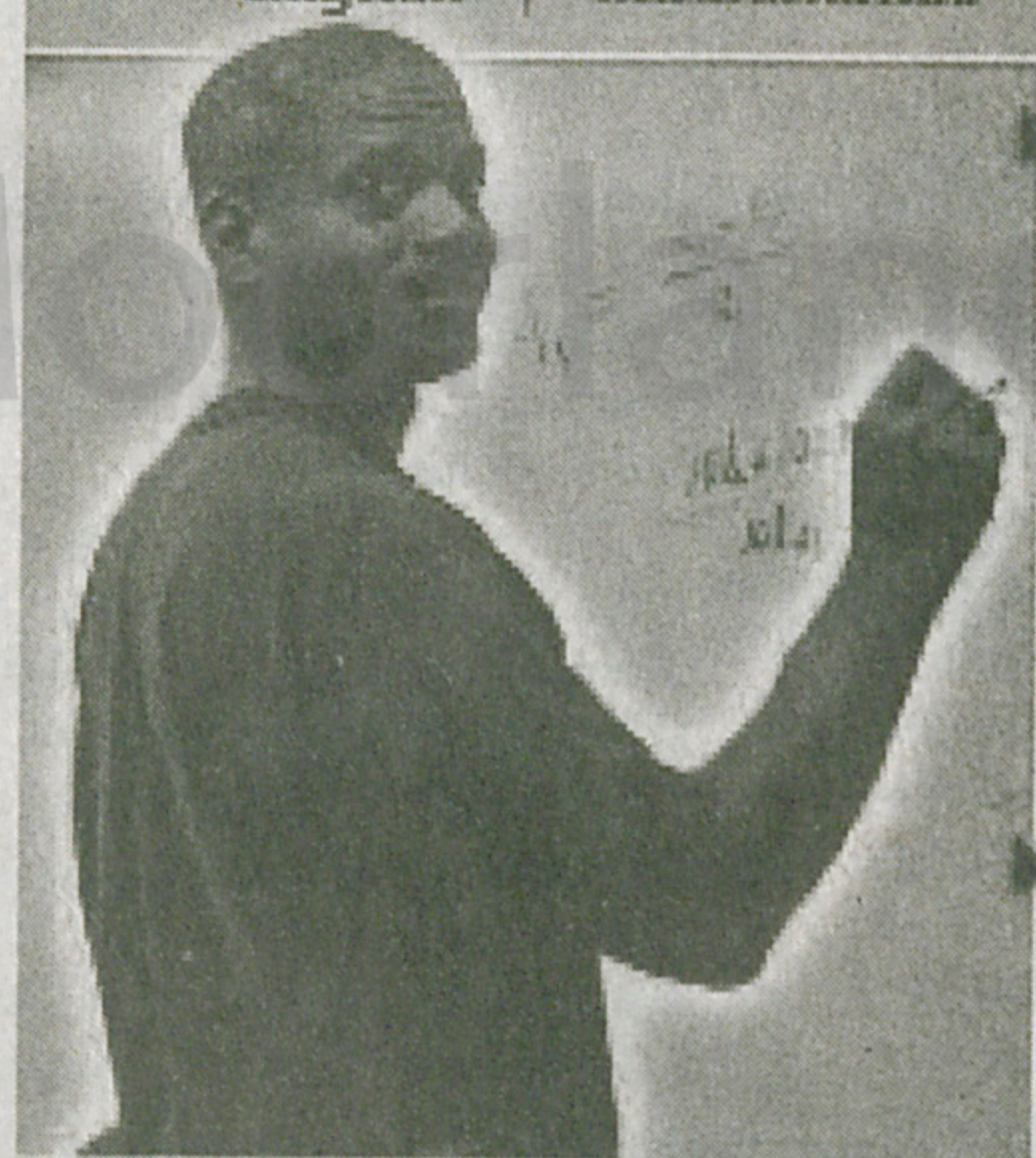
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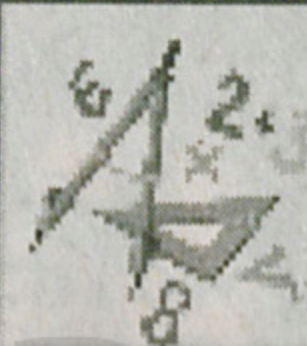


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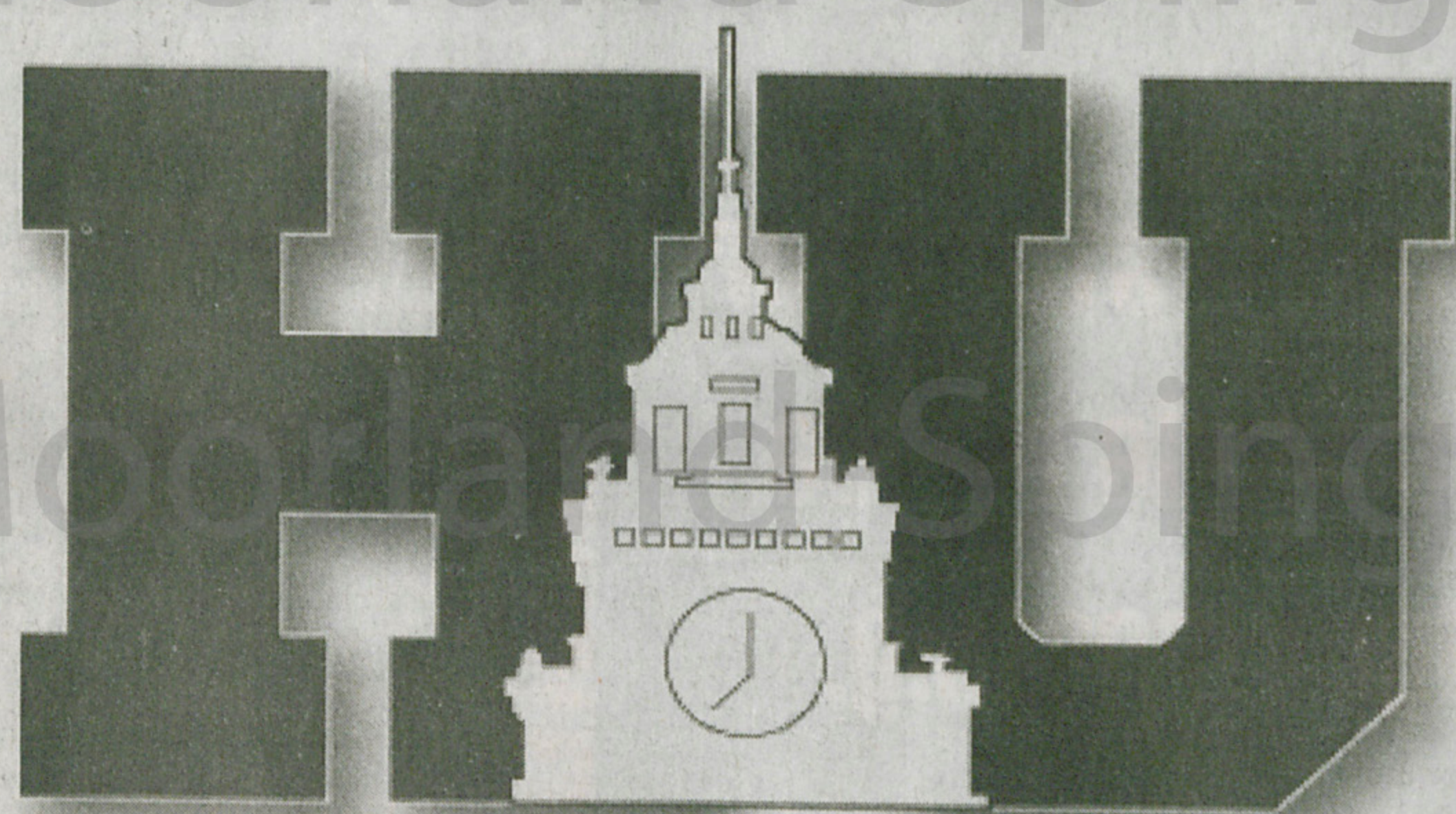
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Howard's 'Top Model' Keeps Career Moving

'America's Next Top Model' Season Nine Contestant Tells the Real Story Behind the Reality TV Show

BY DANIELLE KWATENG
Life & Style Editor

The catwalk is her new classroom. When the lights go up and the runway is set, all the practice comes into play. For years, former Howard student Ambreal Williams has been dreaming of modeling professionally. And after leaving Howard due to extenuating circumstances and getting the opportunity of a lifetime, everything is now falling into place for Williams.

The humble Texas native took time to sit down and speak with *The Hilltop*.

Hilltop: How long have you been modeling?

Ambreal Williams: I've been modeling on and off since about 13. I didn't get signed with an agency until recently.

H: Are you still in Texas?

AW: Right now, I am in Texas, but I will be moving to L.A. soon. I'm signing with Click Models in L.A.

H: As a career, you've been doing this since you were 13, so when did you decide you wanted to do this professionally?

AW: Well, I've always wanted to do something in the limelight professionally. I have video tapes, home videos, of me saying I wanted to be a model and an actress, everything. So...I pretty much decided since I was little (chuckle) that I wanted to be in the limelight. I guess probably around 15 is when I decided I really wanted to model. And then see where it would take me in the industry. It branches off.

H: At Howard, where you were in the class of '09, what was your major?

AW: My major was musical theater.

H: How was your experience at Howard?

AW: Well, I love Howard. I was doing musical theater, but it was just really hard for me to try to model on the side [and] do well in my classes, because I have to actually be there. I had actually started to get sick towards the end of first semester sophomore year and decided to take the second semester off. While I was off, I decided I might as well get hard on my grind and try to model while I'm out. So I auditioned to "Top Model" and that's how it got started!

H: What was your process to get on the show?

AW: Well, it was actually my third time auditioning for



After appearing on "America's Next Top Model," Ambreal Williams continues to pursue her modeling career.

the show. The third time I decided to make my own tape so they could see who I am. After that, they called me and they said 'We're interested in you' and they had a call back, before the open call backs, for all the people who sent tapes in. And they narrowed it down. I was there all day. And then I eventually got a call from Tyra saying I made the semifinals. Go on from there, and you see everything on TV pretty much.

H: Do you feel like you had enough experience once you got there, seeing the other girls, or was it intimidating?

AW: Well...I always take everything in. I wanna learn. I took the experience as a learning experience, because I don't know everything in the model industry. But from having past experience, I did know some things. I felt like I had a leg up in certain things, especially runway. I have done a lot of runway shows. But in other situations, like posing and facial expressions, I wanted to learn some more, so I just was listening and

took it as a learning experience.

H: Why do you think Tyra chose you?

AW: I think she choose me because I have a great personality. We had an interview with her and a couple of the producers...and Ms. J was in the room. I had gone into the room and I forgot that there was a step that you had to step over, because we were on a ship and I stepped over and tripped. I was like 'Here I am!' Just to kind of play it off. And I think I won them over.

H: Was there any beefing in the house?

AW: We all had the same focus. I still talk to the girls. We're all doing our own thing, but we still love each other. We really are still close. We did have our disagreements, but we considered ourselves all sisters. I talked to Sarah all the time and Kim and Bianca and Felicia a lot because I'm moving to L.A.

H: Are the cameras always around?

AW: The cameras were pretty much always around, especially when we were in the house. When we would go to different areas, they'd have a camera crew on the bus. Occasionally there weren't cameras and when the cameras weren't around, we couldn't speak. So everything was on camera.

They took everything from us. Our iPods...different reality shows have different rules...no TV, no magazines, like *US Weekly* or tabloids or anything like that. We could have fashion magazines and I think that was it. We had a TV that was working in the bathroom and they found out and we got in trouble for that. The real world of modeling is totally different from "Top Model" (chuckle).

H: It kind of makes you go crazy....

AW: Yea, we kind of went crazy. We even played follow-the-leader a couple times around the house. We found ways to entertain ourselves.

H: Was anything scripted

or made up?

AW: Oh! Everything is played up entirely, because they have to make a TV show. The first couple of episodes I wasn't really in it, because I wasn't in any of the drama. All the arguments that they showed I actually was in the arguments speaking, but I was mediating. So they edited me out. Of course they dwelled on the drama that was happening. In reality we had moved on, but we knew they were just going to pull this on and keep going.

H: Were you shocked when you were voted off?

AW: I thought it was coming. They had eliminated me before and I got to stay. So going on I just kind of realized they were leaning towards certain other girls and the winner. I had learned and I'll go to China one day. I'm not worried about it.

H: Did you have an idea of who was going to win when you left?

AW: Actually when I left I didn't know who was going to win. But from watching the show I can kind of tell. It was kind of inevitable. It really was.

It's been a lot of controversy about our winner that we had this cycle because she knew Tyra. Knowing her and being there and living with her...I don't think she knew that she was going to win. I think that was Tyra's plan all along. I kind of figured it was my time to go and I'm happy for her. I talk to her all the time. We're all doing our own thing and we're about to blow up.

H: You sound really positive.

AW: I'm a really positive person.

H: Do you plan on coming back to Howard?

AW: For right now, I'm going with the modeling track. I do plan on finishing college. Right now, I can't do it. I have to be a certain age to model, so I can't wait. But I do plan on finishing college. It's one of my goals that I've set for myself. But not right now!

H: Do you still keep in touch with Tyra?

AW: No, I don't. I have not talked to Tyra since I left the stage. She's very busy. I don't take it personal at all. We didn't get to see as much of her as we would have liked to, but we understood that she was very genuine and a personable person. So no animosity towards her.



Diary of a Mad Black Fashionisto

BY GEORGE LANDER
Contributing Columnist

Ahhhhh it's that time of the year again, Black History Month (you know — the shortest month of the year, uh-hum). In honor of "BHM," I have decided to give y'all a pass this week. (That's right, the Black Fashionisto has a heart). That means you can wear your quick weave and velour, my sista (but I pray to Madam CJ Walker that you won't). Instead, I will enlighten y'all about a few little-known black designers who have left a lasting impression on the fashion industry and black history.

Patrick Kelly (Sept. 24, 1954 - Jan. 1, 1990) — Often considered a fashion outcast (Whew! I feel his pain) because of the controversial messages and images that were infused into his designs, Kelly was one of the most iconic designers to emerge in the 1980s. Kelly was also the first American (that means the first out of white folks and blacks folks) to be inducted into the prestigious Chambre Syndicale, an elite organization of French designers.

Ann Lowe (1898-1981) — "Ann Lowe was known as society's best kept secret..." Lowe was most known for being the designer of the wedding dress Jacqueline Bouvier wore when she married John F. Kennedy (Yep! A sista did it... Work Mrs. Lowe!). She was born in Clayton, Ala. and was the great granddaughter of a slave and a plantation owner (aka "Massa"). Mrs. Lowe had a shop in Saks Fifth Avenue (1960) and was awarded Couturier of the Year in 1962.

Willi Smith (February 29, 1948- April 17, 1987) — At the time of his death, Smith's company, Williwear Ltd. sold \$25 million worth of clothing a year (those were some serious coins in the '80s). Born in Philadelphia, Smith's most famous designs were the wedding dress worn by Mary Jane Watson when she married Peter Parker in the Spider-Man comic book and comic strip in 1987. (Don't laugh. I'm sure homegirl's dress was FIERCE!) Smith also designed clothes for Spike Lee's 1987 film "School Daze."

Well, I'm done being an encyclopedia honey. I suggest you put Google to work if you want to learn more about blacks in fashion (and I'm not talking about Kimora and Diddy).

And now for the weekly "read." Last week, someone responded online that my column was a "great example of how the Princeton Review and many other college ranking organizations calls Howard 'one big fashion show.'" This reader went on to say that if people at Howard (Yes! They're talking about you) spent less time getting dressed in the morning (Code for they're bitter because they are ugly) "maybe we (You and I) could do something about "all the Black children living in poverty or without health insurance."

Well "PG," as you addressed yourself online, I happen to advocate for two amazing organizations: Fashion Fights Poverty and Designers for Darfur. If you are truly interested in helping with child poverty or other issues facing our society as a whole (not just blacks) please contact me, but if you ("PG") are too busy being self-righteous to lend your time or voice, I am happy to inform that both organizations accept VISA, MASTERCARD and AMERICAN EXPRESS! We'll take ya COINS too, boo! Thanks again for your response. (Insert fake smile here)

If you have any comments (Don't be scared), suggestions or you have simply seen someone on campus looking a HOT MESS, e-mail me at geroge_v_jorge@yahoo.com

This Week in Fashion

New York Fashion Week in Bryant Park

The Mercedes Benz Fashion Week is on and poppin' in New York City this week. The week-long event will feature such designers as Anna Sui, Badgley Mischka and Carolina Herrera as their latest collections grace the runways of Manhattan's Bryant Park. Along with the seasoned professionals, this year's fashion gala will debut collections from Fashion Week virgins Phillip Lim, Mara Hoffman and Malan Brenton. The collections of Rock & Republic and Tracy Reese have attracted the likes of Jamie King, Sophia Bush and Natasha Henstridge. February's Fashion Week debuts the hottest fall fashions of 2008. The garments that flood the runways of New York this spring will determine the must-haves for later this year.

The MAGIC tradeshow

MAGIC the semi-annual tradeshow, also know as The MAGIC Marketplace, is going to be held in the Las Vegas Convention Center Feb. 12-15. In its 70-year history, MAGIC has gathered thousands of merchants, boutiques and international chains for the four-day event that joins buyers and sellers from all over the world in the biggest apparel and accessories tradeshow in the industry. Slip into four major events: men's, women's, children's and sourcing. MAGIC has been known to provide an outlet for such unrecognized fashion industries as Africa.

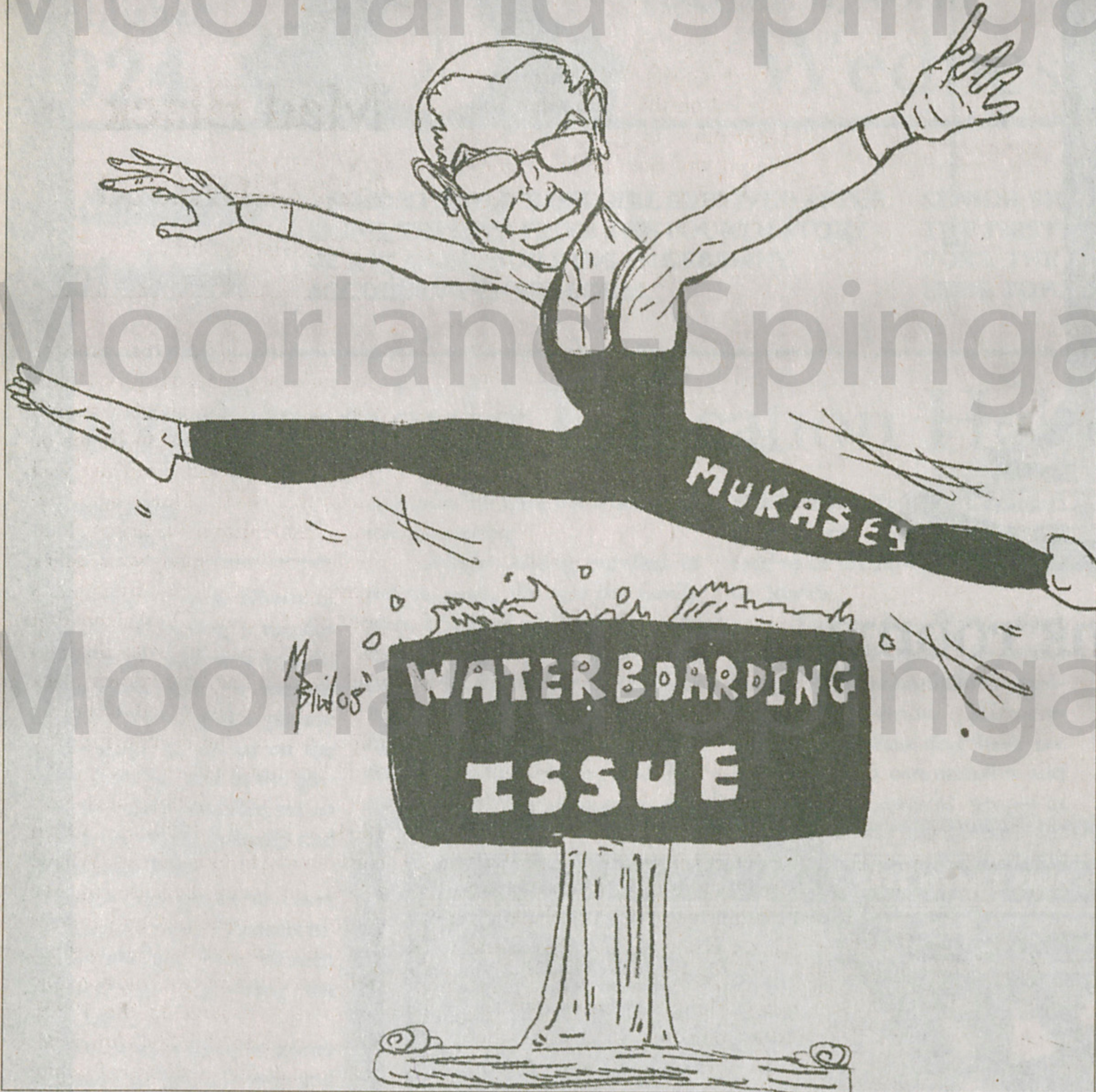
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Daily Sudoku

Directions:
Each row, each column, and each 3x3 box must contain each and every digit 1–9 exactly once.

		8		3			2	
		9	4	8			7	
				6				
5						2	4	
	3	7				9	8	
9	4							6
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Marcus Bird - Cartoonist

Is Waterboarding Not a Crime?

When it comes to the U.S. government, we as their constituents should always feel like our best interests are being served. When public figures abuse their positions to protect an interest other than ours — especially in a hypocritical manner — we are all faced with a problem that extends beyond writing letters to our senators.

Recently, Attorney General Michael Mukasey spoke before Congress and decided not to comment on whether he believes the interrogation technique known as waterboarding is to be considered torture.

Waterboarding, to most, is a method of interrogation that essentially simulates drowning. A person is forced to lie face down as water is poured over the face and into the breathing passages. Even though death is not imminent, the person is made to believe that it

is. Waterboarding causes extreme pain, damage to the lungs, possible brain damage, broken bones, psychological effects, and if performed incorrectly, death.

When asked by Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) if

in 2006, and it is now prohibited by the U.S. military. However, if the Justice Department were to explicitly define waterboarding as illegal, CIA interrogators could be susceptible to legal action in either U.S. or international courts.

If Mukasey were avoiding making waterboarding illegal in an attempt to spare some fellow government officials from possible legal action, then our government has failed us. Hypocritical positions that

favor the few who are in leadership only have a detrimental effect on the masses who are directly involved.

When electing officials to represent us, we expect them to perform with an unbiased, fair political agenda, not one that serves as an avenue to protect their friends or one that encourages the practice of hypocrisy.

Our View:

Hypocrisy has no place in government.

waterboarding would be considered torture if it were done to him, Mukasey replied, “I would feel that it was.”

With Mukasey’s acknowledgement of the cruel nature of the interrogation technique, it raises the question of why he would refuse to consider it illegal. According to CNN, the CIA and the Pentagon banned the technique

Perspective:

Students Should Not Depend on Spell Check

Something is wrong. Here they are, collegiate-level students embarking on the most remarkable journey of their lives, striving to be all that they can be, some enrolled in applied calculus while others are studying anatomy and physiology. Yet, despite levels of obvious intelligence, Howard students are unable to spell and construct simple words and sentences. The culprit: your very own spell check.

This basic feature is a part of the Microsoft Word software that comes already built in most PCs. The thousands of pages of a hardcover Webster’s dictionary begin to collect dust. From research papers to presentations, good ol’ fashion proofreading has taken a backseat to the new technology that, ideally, does it for you. “It’s saved my life,” said one freshman student. “But it does hinder my ability to spell [on my own]. When asked to spell the word “hinder” himself, young Amos seriously — and confidently — replied “H-E-N-D-E-R.” Decorated with a rugged red line, the misspelled word draws immediate attention to the author of a document. With a simple right-click, the software gives options and suggestions of what you

might have been trying to say and allows the correction. Sometimes, the software goes so far as to automatically correct the word if there is just a minor error, leaving the “I before ‘e,’ except after ‘c’” concept just a vague memory of elementary school days. Spell check is a tool that students have become way too dependent on. Dr. Okachi N. Kpalukweu, a freshman composition professor in Howard’s English department agreed. “The first thing she asked me was ‘Does spelling count?’” he said about one of his students as the class went over the final exam, which included an in-class essay. He says that because most students depend on the software to correct their grammatical and spelling errors, they do not learn the basics. This worries him.

“They use [spell check] as a crutch,” said Kpalukweu. Spell check was designed to assist the author by not only catching spelling errors, but sentence fragments and out of place words as well. However, a problem arises when the author relies on spell check not as a back up or assistant method, but as the main one. Computerized software can only do so much. “Sometimes you might spell ‘our’ when you really mean

‘hour,’ but if it is spelled correctly, the spell check won’t pick up on it,” said Laureka Batts, a sophomore audio production major. With the increasing technology, the method in which people learn has been drastically altered. Some believe that it is merely a product of innovations of the 21st century, but how innovative can something be if it is causing us to have a lack of consciousness when it comes to our English? Eight out of 10 Howard students interviewed could not spell the word “entrepreneurship.”

“Most of us grew up in the era where we took spelling tests in school, [so] it’s bad that people cannot spell,” said junior broadcast journalism major, Jason Clark. “But...that is less people I have to compete with in the workforce.” There is risk of embarrassment, among other things, if one cannot use basic vocabulary, form complete sentences and spell simple words. “By now, as students in college, their grammar and spelling should be very good,” said Kpalukweu. One of my students told me that she just does not know how to spell. If they depend on [spell check] now, they will depend on it forever.”

- Grace Salvant

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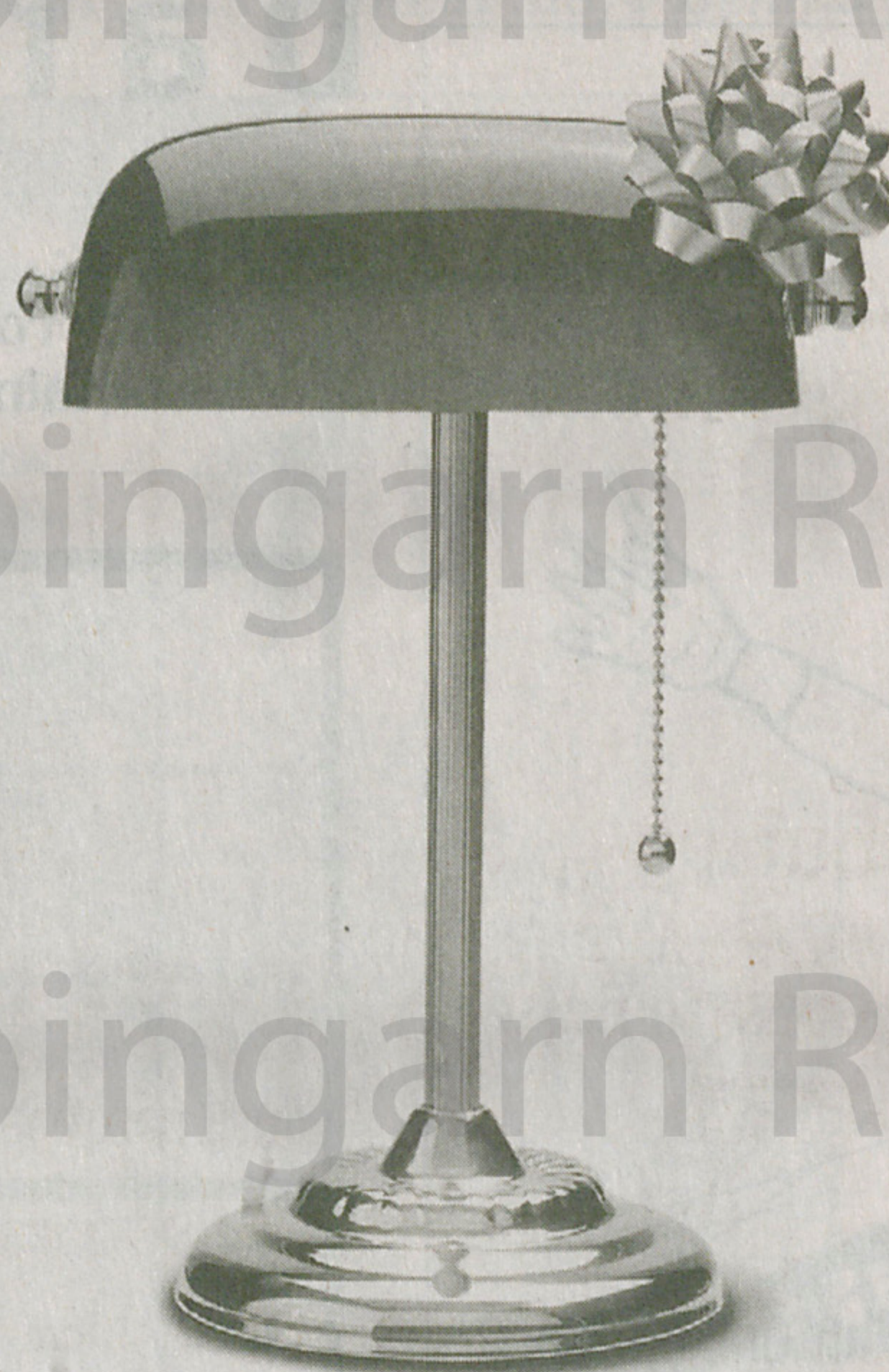
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